

What is claimed is:

1. A method of managing workflow in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said method comprising:
creating a press ready file at the designer location using updated device configuration information from the print service provider location;
submitting said press ready file to the print service provider location via an electronic network;
verifying, at said print service provider location, that said press ready file will print at said print service provider location as designed at the designer location and, if not, correcting said press ready file to ensure printing substantially as designed; and
performing automated finishing using, if created, said corrected press ready file, else using said verified press ready file.
2. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1, wherein said step of creating a press ready file at the designer location further comprises performing automated remote finishing setup of said press ready file to remotely select the desired finishing options for said press ready file when printed at said print service provider location.
3. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1, wherein said step of verifying, at said print service provider location, further comprises performing automated remote finishing setup.
4. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1, wherein said step of automated finishing is performed and wherein an automated finishing device is used to finish said printed output in accordance with finishing instructions in said press ready file.
5. A method of managing workflow according to claim 1, wherein said step of correcting includes reading finishing instructions prepared at the designer location and

preparing appropriate corresponding instructions for an actual finishing device to be used at the print service provider location.

6. A method of managing workflow according to claim 5, wherein said step of correcting further comprising updating a job ticket corresponding to said press ready file.

7. A method of performing automated finishing in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said method comprising:

creating a production ready file at the designer location using updated device configuration information from the print service provider location, said production ready file including finishing instructions;

submitting said production ready file to the print service provider location via an electronic network; and

receiving a printed output of said production ready file and finishing said printed output at a finishing device in accordance with finishing instructions from said production ready file.

8. A method of performing automated finishing according to claim 7, wherein after said step of submitting, said method further comprises a step of verifying, at said print service provider location, that said production ready file will be produced at said print service provider location as designed at the designer location and, if not, correcting said production ready file, including said finishing instructions, to ensure production substantially as designed.

9. A method of performing automated finishing according to claim 8, wherein said step of correcting further comprises reading finishing instructions prepared at the designer location and preparing appropriate corresponding instructions for an actual finishing device to be used at the print service provider location.

10. A method of performing automated finishing according to claim 8, wherein said step of correcting further comprises adding finishing instructions for an actual finishing device to be used at the print service provider location to supplement finishing instructions prepared at the designer location.

11. A method of performing automated finishing according to claim 8, wherein said method further comprises sending an indication of the operational status of the finishing device to a server computer at said print service provider location.

12. A method of performing automated finishing according to claim 8, wherein said method further comprises sending an indication of the job completion status of the finishing device to a server computer at said print service provider location.

13. A method of performing automated finishing according to claim 8, wherein said step of correcting further comprising updating a job ticket corresponding to said production ready file.

14. A method of performing automated finishing according to claim 7, wherein said step of creating a production ready file at the designer location using updated device configuration information from the print service provider location further comprises selecting an available finishing device based on said updated device configuration information.

15. A program product for performing automated finishing in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said product comprising machine-readable program code for causing, when executed, a machine to perform the following method steps:

creating a production ready file at the designer location using updated device configuration information from the print service provider location, said production ready file including finishing instructions;

submitting said production ready file to the print service provider location via an electronic network; and
receiving a printed output of said production ready file and finishing said printed output at a finishing device in accordance with finishing instructions from said production ready file.

16. A program product according to claim 15, wherein after said step of submitting, said method further comprises a step of verifying, at said print service provider location, that said production ready file will be produced at said print service provider location as designed at the designer location and, if not, correcting said production ready file, including said finishing instructions, to ensure production substantially as designed.

17. A program product according to claim 16, wherein said step of correcting further comprises reading finishing instructions prepared at the designer location and preparing appropriate corresponding instructions for an actual finishing device to be used at the print service provider location.

18. A program product according to claim 16, wherein said step of correcting further comprises adding finishing instructions for an actual finishing device to be used at the print service provider location to supplement finishing instructions prepared at the designer location.

19. A program product according to claim 16, wherein said method further comprises sending an indication of the operational status of the finishing device to a server computer at said print service provider location.

20. A program product according to claim 16, wherein said method further comprises sending an indication of the job completion status of the finishing device to a server computer at said print service provider location.

21. A program product according to claim 16, wherein said step of correcting further comprising updating a job ticket corresponding to said production ready file.

22. A program product according to claim 15, wherein said step of creating a production ready file at the designer location using updated device configuration information from the print service provider location further comprises selecting an available finishing device based on said updated device configuration information.

23. A system for performing automated finishing in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said system comprising:

- means for creating a production ready file at the designer location using updated device configuration information from the print service provider location, said production ready file including finishing instructions;

- means for submitting said production ready file to the print service provider location via an electronic network; and

- means for receiving a printed output of said production ready file and finishing said printed output at a finishing device in accordance with finishing instructions from said production ready file.